

PUBLIC NOTICE
The Maryland Department of Natural Resources
Fishing and Boating Services
2023 Sponge Crab Importation Dates

WHAT THIS NOTICE DOES

The Secretary of the Maryland Department of Natural Resources, in consultation with blue crab advisory groups, announces that female blue crabs from which the egg pouch or bunion has been removed, or egg-bearing female blue crabs known as sponge crabs, may be imported into Maryland from another state by a dealer or crab processing plant only during the period May 11, 2023 through July 20, 2023. Dealers and crab processing plants must have a bill of sale or lading from the jurisdiction of origin and may not import the crabs at any other time of the year.

WHY THIS IS NECESSARY

This action is necessary to implement the Chesapeake Bay Blue Crab Management Plan. The time period specified ensures minimal disruptions to the crab processing plant industry.

WHO THIS NOTICE AFFECTS

This applies to seafood dealers and processors who purchase and import egg-bearing female blue crabs in the state of Maryland.

AUTHORITY

Code of Maryland Regulations 08.02.03.08C.

Josh Kurtz
Secretary of Natural Resources